# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:182
ANSWERED ON:29.11.2016
Hallmarking of Jewellery
Kirtikar Shri Gajanan Chandrakant;S.R. Shri Vijay Kumar

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that inferior quality jewellery are being sold by jewellers in various parts of the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Bureau of Indian Standards has directed all the jewellers to comply with the hallmarking of jewellery and if so, the details thereof;
(c) the total number of hallmarking centres in the country, State/UT-wise;
(d) whether there is adequate number of hallmarking centres in the country and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor and the corrective measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard; and
(e) the other steps taken/being taken by the Government to protect the consumers from inferior quality of jewellery?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*182 FOR 29.11.2016 REGARDING HALLMARKING OF JEWELLERY.

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(a) : Yes, Madam. Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) had conducted two market surveys in the year 2001 & 2006 of non-hallmarked jewellery being sold by the jewellers across the country.

Details of the same are given below:

| Particulars | 2001 (120 samples in 8 cities) | 2006 (162 samples in 16 cities) |
|---|---|---|
| Samples failing | 89% | 90% |
| Average shortage in purity | 11% | 13.5% |
| Highest purity shortage | 38.6% | 44.6% |

(b) : Presently the Hallmarking of gold and silver jewellery is voluntary.

(c) : As on 25th Oct 2016 there were 409 BIS recognized Assaying and Hallmarking Centres (A & H Centre) in the country. The State/UT wise list of Assaying & Hallmarking (A & H) Centre is at Annexure.

(d) : The setting up of A&H Centre is a market driven activity depending upon the commercial viability as assessed by the entrepreneurs. To provide impetus to the hallmarking activity, Government provides financial assistance to the A & H Centre in deficient locations of the country which do not have an A & H Centre.

(e): To protect the consumer interest with respect to the purity of hallmarked jewellery, surveillance audit is carried out of the A & H Centre. Besides, market sample are drawn from the licensed jewellers to ensure compliance to relevant Standards. Further, in the BIS Act, 2016 enabling provisions have been made to make hallmarking of precious metal articles mandatory.

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